

(3) As working women, trained nurses are all compelled to contribute to the expenses of the Act, so that, unless something is done, they may be compelled to support a standard of nursing of which they disapprove. Nothing could prove more clearly their pitiable position than their lack of recognition under the Act.

THE NURSES PROTECTION COMMITTEE.

At a public meeting of nurses held in London in July to consider the National Insurance Bill, a Committee was appointed to gather information and to take any necessary steps for the protection of the nurses' interests in regard to the Bill. This Committee did useful work in bringing the views of nurses before Ministers and the public. The needs of trained nurses in regard to insurance and sickness benefits are so different to those of other sections of workers that they are not likely to benefit greatly by the Act, and they need a special society of their own, for women nurses only, if they are to have the best possible terms, and benefits which will be of use to them.

THE NURSES' MISSIONARY LEAGUE.

The Nurses' Missionary League has a record of ever-growing activities, and the evidence of its depth of growth below the surface is to be found in the increasing number of members who volunteer for work in the foreign mission field. While it is true that the life of a missionary nurse is probably the happiest possible for anyone with a true vocation, the decision to break with the known and launch out into the unknown is always a wrench, demanding self-sacrifice. The League holds meetings in different hospitals, organizes one or more "Nurses' Camps" annually, arranges conferences, lectures and sales of work, and is, generally speaking, a wholesome and uplifting influence in the lives of its members and associates.

MEMORIALS.

MEMORIAL TO KING EDWARD VII.

The combined Committee of the Nurses' Memorial to King Edward VII., of which the Hon. Secretary is now Miss S. A. Swift, have raised over £12,000, which is to be applied to the establishment of a Home, or Homes, for nurses no longer able to work.

THE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL FUND.

The Committee appointed to organize the national memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale presented a disappointing report in October last. It is, however, satisfactory that the strong desire of nurses for a statue of the founder of modern nursing in the Metropolis

is to be respected and take precedence of the philanthropic scheme favoured by some of the lay members of the Committee.

In Liverpool a local committee raised about £3,000 for the maintenance of a home for district nurses in connection with the local branch of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Institute, to be known as the Florence Nightingale Home.

MEMENTOES OF MISS NIGHTINGALE.

Some interesting mementoes of Miss Nightingale have been presented to the Museum of the Royal United Service Institution, where they may be seen.

SCOTLAND.

In Scotland, where, until recently, Matrons and Nurses were unorganised, there is now an influential society of Matrons—the Scottish Matrons' Association—with Miss A. W. Gill, R.R.C., Matron of the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, as its President, and three Associations of Nurses, all of which endorse the principle of State Registration.

The Local Government Board of Scotland have instituted an examination in fever nursing, and have issued a Memorandum on the Examination and Certification of Trained Fever Nurses, which establishes examinations in general education and fever nursing, and provides for the certification of approved candidates.

At the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, courses of lectures, given from time to time by members of the medical staff, are, with professional generosity, thrown open to all trained nurses.

IRELAND.

In Ireland the Irish Matrons' Association, and the Irish Nurses' Association and its Ulster Branch are active professional forces for the organization and consolidation of the Nursing Profession. On the initiative of Miss M. Huxley, the Irish Matrons' Association has promoted a co-operative scheme, which has been warmly taken up by members of the Irish Nurses' Association, for a new Hostel for Nurses at 34, St. Stephen's Green, in which they themselves have shares, and which is a common centre for the many activities of the nursing profession in Ireland. Here educational lectures are given, private nurses are supplied to the public, and the Hostel also provides residential accommodation in a beautiful old house, which nurses visiting Ireland are invited to make their headquarters.

The Irish Nurses' Association did good work in securing a return of nurses engaged in the care of the sick at the last census in a distinct section.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)